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ZGC File

E. H. Hunt - Summary

3/10/78

The ZGC file covers the period from July 4, 1965 to June 19, 1972.

The file contains the following documents and information:

① A contract between the Agency and E.H. Hunt, effective July 4, 1965. \$19,880 per annum. Employs Hunt as a "contract employee" 2 years.

② A memo for OGC from Chief of Contract personnel Division, dated August 3, 1965. Subject: Retention of royalties by a Contract Employee. states that Hunt "will apparently develop a cover as a writer." Requests opinion regarding retention of royalties Hunt may earn.

③ memo for Chief of Contract Personnel Division from Office of General Counsel, dated Aug 12, 1965. re retention of royalties. "we believe that Hunt is entitled to retain such royalties without an offset against his Agency salary." "We have been advised by Mr. Gene Stevens, we/support, that ~~the cover does not include the role of a writer~~ Hunt's cover does not include the role of a writer; Hunt's cover for status will only be a light one of a retired Foreign Service officer."

④ memo from Chief, Covert Claims Branch to Chief, Contract Personnel Division, dated Sept 3, 1965. Office recommended deletion of offset paragraph in Hunt's contract. Acknowledges the OGC opinion which determined Hunt may retain without Agency salary offset any future royalties earned as a result of his literary efforts based on the fact cover does not include role of a writer."

2 - Hunt summary

chief,

(5) memo from ^Contract Employees Accounts Section to Chief, Western Europe Division, dated Oct 13, 1965. Reports that there is no record of receipt of Duty Status Reports for Hunt since his EOD 4 July 1965. Reports are required in order to maintain his leave account in accordance with the terms of his contract. memo on bottom of page to Compensation and Tax Division from chief of support, WE Division: "Per conversation with Mr. Thomas Karamessines, ADDP, there will be no Duty Status Reports submitted on Hunt. This should be used as the authority to continue his pay without these reports."

(6) memo for Dep. Director for Support to Acting Chief, Western Europe Division, dated Nov 8, 1965 Hunt has requested relief on housing costs. "4. Due to the operational sensitivity of Hunt's assignment, his request for relief on his housing costs was handled by Mr. Thomas Karamessines. On 15 Sept 1965, Mr. Karamessines, approved his being reimbursed on a 25/35 % basis for the excess allowable costs up to, but not to exceed, 60 % above his quarters allowance.

(7) memo, dated Feb 1, 1974 re General Gaynor's recollections regarding his knowledge of the writings of Mr. Hunt and any official who might be aware of the circumstances of any Agency involvement in that effort. a. "He became aware that Hunt, while in WH, was accomplishing a steady flow of spy books, and that security approval was not being requested on the manuscripts before submission to publishers. Gen. Gaynor advised that ~~a great~~ he raised the issue "up front" on several

occasions. The reaction he received to his raising the issue was that "keep your stinking nose out of this business." He stated that he was lead to believe that Mr. Helms desired to improve the image of the intelligence profession and the Agency and that Hunt's books were a part of the program to do so. He stated that he was never told outright that this was the case, but the responses he received lead him to believe this was the case."

He suggested two people who might clear the issue-

Ray Rocca and Walter Pforzheimer "both of whom were involved in the "image" materials. "He stated that Pforzheimer seemed to be aware of all the details - on an up to date basis - of Hunt's departure from the Agency to join the public relations firm, to the degree that Gen. Gaynor gained the belief that Hunt was merely moving his desk outside the building, but being paid by the same source as before. Miss Ethel Mendoza may also help.

Also Anita Potocki

⑧ Feb 6, 1974- memo- On Feb 4, 1974- Pforzheimer was interviewed. "This interview was undertaken ... in an effort to determine if Mr. Hunt had acted in any capacity in cooperation with Counter Intelligence operations. When Pforzheimer discovered Hunt had written On Hazardous Duty, he called Karamessines. Mr. P recalled that "from the nature of Mr. Karamessines' reaction that he had uncovered a sensitive matter of senior officer concern." Within 5 minutes, Helms called Pforzheimer who remembers the substance of the conversation being "for Christ sake Walter, this is the first book to come along and say

something good about the Agency," "why not leave the Goddam thing alone." Mr. P believed that ^{only} Helms or Karamessines could answer the question of whether Hunt had Agency sponsorship for his books. ~~He~~. The memo states that Hunt was assigned to the Office of the Deputy Director for Operations in Feb 1965. The first book was published during 1965, June 1965 - through Sept 1966, Hunt was assigned to Madrid as a contract agent. 1966 - 3 books appeared. 1967 - 1 book, 1968, 1969, 1971, & 1972 - 1 book/yr. April 30, 1970 - Hunt officially retired as an Agency staff employee. "The Office of Security records did not develop any indication that any of the David St. John manuscripts were ever submitted for review in accordance with Agency regulations."

9-memo for record - Feb 6, 1974 *Subj: Possible Agency Sponsorship of the David St. John Novels. A conference was held with people from the I.G. office. "...The speculation was entertained that Mr. E. Howard Hunt had, in fact, been under Agency sponsorship with the knowledge of Mr. Richard Helms in his preparation of a series of spy novels under the pseudonym, David St. John. It can be accepted as a reasonable supposition that Mr. Hunt had some highly compartmented financial arrangement authorized by senior Agency officials to write these books, then it is likely that this relationship continued after Mr. Hunt officially retired." "Minutes from the Office of Legislative Counsel made references to a concern of Senator Baker over an alleged financial relationship between

Mr. Helms and Mr. Hunt which continued subsequent to Mr. Hunt's formal retirement...." Baker made reference to a payment of some \$30,000 with the parenthetical comment that Mr. Helms would not have that amount of money from his private funds. An Employee of IO staff opined that "if the Agency had sponsored the St. John books, it was likely that Mr. Hunt had so informed Senator Baker."

(b) Interview with Raymond Rocca - Feb 14, 1974 - Asked about financing of Hunt. "Mr. Rocca responded "on the record" that he has no knowledge of any such arrangements nor at any time was he party to any assistance or any requests for assistance to Mr. Hunt." Ventured opinion that "in all probability an official acquiescence on the part of senior officials might have been involved rather than an official sponsorship."

(c) Interview with Chief, Contract Personnel Division. 15 Feb 1974. Stated that "...although it was not common practice it was not entirely unusual for highly sensitive contracts to be administered without the contracting officer being aware of the operational objective involved."

(d) Interview with former Chief of Support, Western European Division - 1965 Date: 15 Feb 1974. Asked re Hunt's activities in 1965. "...from his recollection it was Hunt's habit to deal only with the most senior officer available." "He was never briefed on the purpose of Mr. Hunt's mission..."

(3) memo for record, dated 21 Feb 1974, re Office of Finance Records - E. Howard Hunt.

Hunt departed D.C. on 5 Aug 1965 and arrived Madrid on 16 Aug 1965. Hunt was paid through an account at the Riggs Nat. Bank in D.C. An operational acc't was established for Mr. Hunt with Chase Manhattan. "There was no record of any operational accounts or advances being processed through this channel. Mr. Yale stated that this fact defined his concern. He felt that it was inconceivable that Mr. Hunt could have undertaken operational activity without some transfer of or accounting for funds." To date, no such records have been developed. No reference to a project or project digraph or operational FAN number has been located. All expenses connected with Mr. Hunt identified to date were charged to the Madrid Station support. A review made of Madrid station records has not indicated any "Developmental and Target of Opportunity (D&TO" funds or "Other operational Activity (OoA)" funds expended by or on behalf of Mr. Hunt. These two accounts would normally be the source of operational funding not charged against a specific project activity." A review of travel vouchers also failed to identify a project. There was a voucher for a trip to PC & return to Madrid Jan 5-8, 1966. The voucher states in the space provided for the citation of the travel order number - "no travel order." The accounting was approved and signed by Karamessines. -@ no justification or statement of purpose. Mr. Yale noted that the royalty offset waiver provision amended to Hunt's contract was, in his experience, somewhat unusual.

The Office of Finance Director stated that from his experience, Mr. Karamessines would have delegated all the arranging of "details" surrounding an assignment such as Mr. Hunt's to Mr. Halpern.

He offered his surprise "at what he interpreted to be reticence to date to interview Mr. Halpern."

(u) memo for record - 21 Feb 1974 Subj: Watergate - Frank A.

O'Malley. Mr. O'Malley retired June, 1972. Prior to retirement he was an officer in the External Employment Assistance Branch, Retirement Activities Division of the Office of Personnel. He was to assist in finding post-retirement employment. He had been instrumental in the placement of Hunt in the Robert R. Mullen P.R. firm. ~~the purpose~~ Prior to working for Personnel, O'Malley served with the Central Cover Staff in the area dealing with the funding of covert action projects. He had become familiar with activities of Hunt while Hunt functioned on the Covert Activities Staff. O'Malley first came in contact with Mullen Company when he was attempting to handle the public relations effort of a covert Agency activity known as the Free Cuba Committee.

"In a response to a question as to whether or not executive level interest was still being shown in Mr. Hunt's post-employment placement, Mr. O'Malley recalled that Helms, then Director, was listed as a character reference on Mr. Hunt's resume and Helms signed a letter of recommendation to the Kennecott Copper Co. on Hunt's behalf."

Contact was maintained with Mr. Hunt at the Mullen Co. on a continuing basis, because Mr. O'Malley was interested in Mr. Hunt for possible referrals (of other Agency retirees). He also

understood there was cover and commercial staff interest in the mullen Co., and that Mr. Hunt became instrumental in discussing several aspects of the cover operations in his capacity as an officer of the company.

Mr. Hunt contacted O'Malley on several occasions requesting referral of retiring Agency employees with specific qualification - after Hunt had joined the White House. Recalled a request for an individual having skills in the area of locks and surreptitious entry. It was O'Malley's impression that the duties involved would include the monitoring of a listening device in an undisclosed location. Hunt also requested a recommendation of a security service organization to carry out an electronic countermeasures "sweep." O'Malley suspected the electronic countermeasures sweep was to be carried out in the offices of the Committee to Re-elect the Pres. O'Malley was asked if he ever referred anyone to McCord Associates. He had. O'Malley recalled that at the time of Hunt's assignment to Madrid the statement disseminated for consumption within the Agency was that Mr. Hunt was retiring. This was not generally believed. He was quite certain that during this period his office handled no project funding for Hunt. On Mr. Hunt's return to staff employment the projects and funding which stopped in July 1965 were again resumed.

(15) 22 Feb 1974 - meeting with Sam Halpern. - He thought it was entirely possible Helms & Karamessines handled the Hunt-Madrid business on their own. He didn't know anything.

(16) Interview with former Deputy Chief of Western European Division, DDP - 22 Feb 1974. He stated the assignment of Mr. Hunt to the European Division & to Madrid "was handled without the benefit

of the routine processing procedures through the Western European Division. Hunt's assignment was coordinated and directed by Karamessines.^{If} He was unaware of any specific project or target for Hunt. Hunt produced positive intelligence on the Iberian target during this period the officials responsible for the officials responsible for this effort within the Western European Division were totally unaware of it. The maj. of info he had about Hunt was hearsay, for example, a comment was made by a mutual acquaintance to the effect that Hunt stated that while in Madrid he was going to "play golf and write books." His personal opinion - that Hunt had no operational function and was simply granted the opportunity to write books for his own personal gain at govt expense.

(17) memo for the record, dated 20 Dec 1973, conversation with C/Iberian desk in 1964, 65. He was told by C/Eur ~~to~~ who had been told by Karamessines that Hunt was to be assigned to Madrid as DCOS, as a directed assignment by Helms. The Ambassador would not have Hunt in the Embassy. After a couple months ~~to~~, he was told that Hunt was going to Spain under nonofficial cover. It came to him from Karamessines on Helms' order. Hunt was to have the phone # of the COS, but he would do nothing for the station. Hunt was to submit administrative vouchers for reimbursement of his expenses & they were to be paid. He knows that there was no operational reporting, to indicate that Hunt was doing anything. COS-/Madrid had told him that he didn't know what Hunt did.

(10)

- (18) 27 Feb 1974 - Search of Finance records to determine if a \$30,000 payment to Hunt, that required no accounting, could be found. Checked travel claims for 1960-1972. Analyzed Hunt's advance account for yr in Madrid and have determined that \$33,500 was advanced to him for travel and transportation with one trip to Paris to renew visa. One item appeared unusual - an expenditure of \$1,600 for a sensitive operation which was approved for write-off by Mr. Desmond Fitzgerald on 1 June 1966. "One strange aspect of the non-official cover assignment in Madrid is that all the costs were charged to the support allotment of the EUR Division which is not normal as non-official cover people are usually assigned to the project. It is unusual to have a case officer abroad for one year on an operational assignment without him incurring operational expenditures.
- (19) memo dated 9 May 1974, by Chief, OPS/OSG re "Watergate File Research-Final Report." Recalls that there were occasional inquiries by Am. residents of Madrid about the reported presence in Spain of E.H. Hunt. At no time did Hunt contact him. There was some info in 1972 concerning reported activities in Spain by Robert Vesco.
- (20) 29 Oct 1974 memo from Dir. of Security - "Leave records reflect that for the four week pay period ending 23 November 1963 Mr. Hunt took a total of 11 hours sick leave and no annual leave. In the following four week pay period, he took 3 hours sick leave and 27 hours annual leave. We are unable to further identify the dates on which the above sick and annual leave were taken. ... Travel records reflect that Mr. Hunt conducted no official travel during the month of Nov. 1963."

(a) memo for record, 20 Sept 1974 - by S.D. Breckinridge.

"Hunt's travel record shows official travel in September, October and December, but none in November; all of this travel was to New York" "John Richards states that we already know, as a result of responses to previous requests, that we have no records on Sturgis that would show similar information"; he was not an agency employee.

"Security provided us with a column by Jack Anderson, of 16 April 1974, in which he covered the Hunt-Sturgis rumor, dismissing it. A copy of the news column is attached. This would suggest that, rather than police photographs of persons rounded up and booked, the photographs in question are random snapshots of crowds. If this is correct there would be no related police fingerprint records that could be checked for verification."

(b) memo for Deputy Director for administration from Dir. of Security subj: E.H. Hunt. Date 23 Oct 1974. Discusses allegation regarding Hunt & Sturgis. "Mr. Sturgis was not associated with the Agency in any manner in November 1963." FBI liaison officer interviewed Hunt on 17 Oct 1974 and Hunt advised at that time that he had learned of the assassination of JFK "on his car radio while he was in a leave status in the Washington D.C. area."

(c) memo for the record, dated 20 December 1973, by Breckinridge. Hunt was in the DO division and in Aug 1964 was assigned to the Wash. field office. "I gave [redacted] as a possible press treatment that Hunt was engaged in domestic operations (something Senator Baker is pursuing) and that

his assignment to Spain after the election could be presented as giving him time to cool off."

Background - 19 June 1972

Employed by CIA from Nov 1949 until his voluntary retirement on 30 April 1970.

1971 - served as an advisor to Nixon-Chance trip.

"Subject is of current interest to the Central Cover Staff

Dec 1950 - assigned as Chief of Station (Mexico City).

Served as Chief of mission there until 1953

Tokyo, Japan - June 1954 to Feb 1957

CDS-Montevideo, Uruguay, until early 1960.

June 1960 - assigned to Mexico City - on Project - Bay of Pigs.

Nov 1961 - reassigned to the DDP / Covert Action Staff

Jan 1962 " to office of the Chief / DDP

July 1962 - " to the DODS Research and Publications Section in Washington.

July 1964 " to the DODS Covert Action Staff

Feb 1965 " office of the DDP / Operations Group

June 1965 - Sept 1966 - contract agent - Madrid.

Sept 1966 - Chief of European Covert Operations until retirement 30 April 1970.

6 Nov 1970 - granted a Covert Security Approval for use by Central Cover Staff ^{with} @ Mullen

19 June 1972 - Inquiry of Central cover staff on 19 June 1972 revealed that this is a current relationship.

Subject's Ser. file reflects that it has, in the past, been of operational interest to Mr. James Angleton.